

Claims

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 including:
defining plural viewing channels;
on certain of said channels, presenting television programs for viewing;
on at least one of said channels, presenting copied video program for viewing wherein a presented copied video program is a determined ~~favorite~~ program from the first user's favorite entertainment copied automatically when the first user was not watching the determined ~~favorite~~ program.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 which includes listing the copied video program in an electronic program guide associated with the system, together with a viewing channel on which the copied video can be viewed.
6. (currently amended) A method of operating a video system, the video system including a video input able to receive video information from an interactive head-end, a controller able to receive html information from the interactive head-end, a remote control with a menu button, a screen, and a store, the method comprising:
the interactive head-end monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine a ~~favorite~~ normally-watched broadcast video program;
the controller copying the video program to the store if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a ~~favorite~~ normally-watched program, because the ~~favorite~~ normally-watched program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;
defining plural viewing channels;

on certain of said channels, presenting television programs for viewing;
on at least one of said channels, presenting said copied video program for viewing;
~~when a video program has been selected for viewing, receiving indication that the menu button on the remote control has been activated; and in response, displaying a translucent control with a play button on the screen, the play button highlighted;~~
~~upon receipt of indication that the play button was selected, minimizing the control panel on the screen;~~
maintaining the copied video program after viewing;
generating profiles for plural users, said profiles comprising user viewing habits and at least two other user features comprising a game habit, a chat habit, zip code, an interactive news habit, or a jukebox habit;
correlating similar profiles into affinity groupings; and
in response to a query by a viewer transmitted from the controller to the interactive head-end, suggesting a specific program to a viewer that the viewer has never watched, based upon similar preferences determined from said affinity groupings profiles;
~~monitoring the user's viewing habits to determine a ranking of viewed broadcast video programs by viewing frequency; and~~
~~copying to the store plural programs that are not viewed by the user when broadcast, in accordance with said ranking.~~

7. (currently amended) A method of operating a video system, the system including a video input, an interactive controller, an interactive head-end, a screen, a remote control with a menu button, and a store, the method comprising:

the interactive head-end, through information passed by the interactive controller,
monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine a at least one favorite broadcast video program,
a favorite broadcast program comprising a broadcast program usually watched by the user;

in response to a query by the user transmitted from the interactive controller to the interactive head-end, suggesting a video program to the user that the viewer has never watched,
based upon similar preferences of other viewers determined from said monitoring;

copying the video program to the store if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a favorite program, because the favorite program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;

defining plural viewing channels;

on certain of said channels, presenting television programs for viewing; and

in response to indication of activation of the menu button from the remote control, providing an on-screen video control panel with a play button, ~~the video control panel rendered as a change in luminance of underlying imagery on the screen such that the video control panel appears translucent and the play button is highlighted;~~

~~in response to indication of activation of the play button, the control panel becoming more transparent;~~

on a designated channel, presenting said copied video program for viewing;

~~wherein as space is needed, said copied video programs are overwritten in the following priority, first overwrite viewed copied video programs, then overwrite non-viewed copied video programs;~~

~~monitoring the user's viewing habits to determine a ranking of viewed broadcast video programs by viewing frequency; and~~

~~copying to the store plural programs that are not viewed by the user when broadcast, in accordance with said ranking.~~

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of operating a computer implemented interactive entertainment system comprising:

receiving a composite signal comprising plural channels modulated onto separate carrier frequencies;

on certain of said channels, receiving television programs;

on at least one of said channels, receiving video on demand movies;

on at least one of said channels, receiving HTML-based content, comprising at least one of a game channel, an interactive news channel, or a jukebox channel;

logging entertainment selections of plural users;

generating affinity groupings based on at least three of: similarities in the movie selections logged, tv selections logged, games played, chat habits, interactive news habits, or jukebox habits;

logging entertainment selections of a first user to create a first user profile, the entertainment selections comprising at least one television program watched, at least one video on demand movie received, and at least one HTML-based content channel program received;

determining an affinity grouping similar to the first user's first user profile; and

~~presenting the first user a listing of available programs favored by members of the determined affinity grouping;~~

in response to a query by the first user transmitted from the interactive controller to the interactive head-end, suggesting a video program to the first user that the first user has never watched, based upon similar preferences of other viewers within the affinity grouping

~~wherein upon returning to an interactive entertainment channel, the system automatically cycles through plural selections in the determined affinity grouping.~~

14. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium including executable instructions that cause a digital processor to perform a method, the executable instructions comprising:

instructions for monitoring a user's viewing habits to determine a favorite video program;

instructions for copying the favorite video program to a storage medium if the user is not viewing said program when broadcast wherein the user need not plan in advance to record a

favorite program, because the favorite program is automatically recorded if it is not viewed by the user when broadcast;

instructions for defining plural viewing channels;

instructions for generating profiles for plural users connected to the interactive head-end, said profiles comprising user viewing habits and at least two other user features comprising a game habit, a chat habit, zip code, an interactive news habit, or a jukebox habit;

instructions for correlating profiles similar to the first user into an affinity grouping; and in response to a query by the first user transmitted from the interactive controller to the interactive head-end, instructions for suggesting a video program to the first user that the first user has never watched, based upon similar preferences of other viewers within the affinity grouping

instructions for overwriting copied video programs in the storage medium in a following priority, first overwrite viewed copied video programs, then overwrite non-viewed copied video programs;

instructions for monitoring the user's viewing habits to determine a ranking of viewed broadcast video programs by viewing frequency;

instructions for copying to the storage medium plural programs that are not viewed by the user when broadcast, in accordance with said ranking;

instructions for displaying a list of the programs copied to the storage medium on a favorites page; and

instructions for automatically playing the single program upon receipt of an indication to display the favorites page when there is only a single program copied to the storage medium.

15. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 14, further including;

instructions for monitoring the user's viewing habits to determine a ranking of viewed broadcast video programs by viewing frequency;

instructions for copying to the storage medium plural programs that are not viewed by the user when broadcast, in accordance with said ranking;

executable instructions comprising instructions for listing the automatically copied favorite video program in a favorites channel in an electronic programming guide.

16. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for listing the automatically copied favorite video program in the favorites channel by title and length.

17. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for automatically playing the copied favorite video program when the favorites channel is selected.

18. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim ~~44~~15, further including executable instructions comprising instructions for listing plural copied video programs from which the copied favorite video program can be selected for play back.

19. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim ~~44~~15, further including executable instructions permitting a viewer to take a break from broadcast programming comprising:

instructions for receiving a delay program selection; and
instructions for routing broadcast programming to memory upon receiving the delay program selection.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising: selecting a specific program for viewing, wherein the specific program is suggested to the viewer in response to a viewer's inquiry.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising: selecting a specific program for viewing, wherein the specific program is suggested to the viewer autonomously.

22. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 4415, wherein overwriting non-viewed copied video further comprises overwriting the program by time of copy.

23. (currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the ranking is by time of copy, and wherein the program that was recorded first is overwritten first.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising deleting at least one of the plural programs copied to store.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the deleting is done by time of copy.